

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, with the following:

Figures 4A, 4B and 4C depict a schematic of the synthesis of simultaneous incorporation of multiple EMTs into a nucleic acid using the N17 "branch" point nucleoside.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5, with the following:

Figures 5A and 5B depict a schematic of an alternate method of adding large numbers of EMTs simultaneously to a nucleic acid using a "branch" point phosphoramidite, in this case utilizing three branch points (although two branch points are also possible; see for example, Figure 1N) as is known in the art. As will be appreciated by those in the art, each end point can contain any number of ETMs.